342 tends across the entire front. The veranda has its own roof, and can frequently be closed against the outside with portable bamboo mat walls. It serves as an easily accessible place, even for strangers, also as a workroom and shop, and as a favorite gathering place for the family during the daytime. From there, ladders or steps lead to the elevated rear section of the house, where the livingroom, the bedrooms and the kitchen (mibo) are. The latter is usually [343] detached. It opens to the rear, and has its own platform and means of ascent. The cooking stove [354] consists of a flat box (4) filled with sand and

4. Burmese, Shan, and the mountain tribes of Burma and Assam, also the Siamese and Malayans use the flat, sand-filled fireplace; India and China the mud stove. This is probably due to pile dwellings versus level ground architecture.

ashes on which the wood fire is lit. During the dry season the cooking is done preferably in the open, near or under the house. The simple village house has frequently only one inside room. The veranda, especially where the water level during the rainy season makes it mandatory, is frequently found to be an open wide platform of the same height as the rest of the house (1 1/4 to 1 1/2 meters) (Plate IV, 2). The peasant keeps his rice stores either in the kitchen wing, [343] or in small sheds (also on piles) close to the house where the rice containers, the mortars, pestles for the husking, etc. are kept. Under the piles of the house usually stands the weaving loom on which the women and girls (5) work

[562] 5. As to the women who theoretically (in accordance with religious principles) though not in practice, rank

342 /Journal for Ethnology/ 39 (1907) pp. 59 ff. has pointed out what constitutes the difference between the above-mentioned composite buildings and the prehistoric pile dwellings.

due to the fact that every part of the building has its own roof. The roofs of the two major sections run parallel to each other and an eave (ye-ta-yauk) is fitted in between. The front part, which opens directly onto the main veranda, contains the livingroom /Figure 1 - Simplest roof. Burmese house. Stronger roof truss./ and visiting room; in the rear are the bedrooms. The kitchen [343] again is detached. At the railing of the veranda, near the livingroom, is usually the stand for the drinking water jugs. Windows are normally only in the front part of the house. At the east wall 353 of the interior of the livingroom is sometimes a very handsomely carved rack (nyaung-ye-o-sin), with a Buddha image, or simply with flower vases in odd /206/ numbers (three or five) which are dedicated to him. They contain fresh leaves of the Nyaung bin (Ficus religiosa), or as a substitute the "Tree of Knowledge," which is sacred to Buddhism, or the hardy, easily obtainable leaves of the aloe plants, etc.

342 The building material for the rural houses is 335 bamboo. For the main posts and beams (yet-ma) wooden logs are used by anyone who can possibly afford them; otherwise the sturdy canes of the giant bamboo are employed. Strong bamboo poles also furnish the crossbeams (sin) /Figure 2 - Roof covers at the village of Kenghkam, southern Shan State Yawnghwe./ on which the floor at a height of 1 to 1 1/2 meters rests. The main posts, standing in pairs, are joined together at the top by crossbeams; on them, in the center, stands a short beam which serves as a support of the roof ridge. On larger houses an additional beam frame is used and on this stands the support